

NPS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION & REPORTING

Key to the ultimate success of any nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control program is the capability and commitment to monitor, track and assess implementation progress. Virginia uses a number of mechanisms to assess and report program effectiveness. Semi-annual, annual or biennial reports are required for most of Virginia's programs. These reports are the primary mechanism for conveying information to decision makers, state and federal agencies, and the public.

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act requires an annual program report and semi-annual project reporting. The annual report is intended to provide the mechanism by which Virginia describes progress toward implementing the broad program elements of the NPS Management Program. The semi-annual project report is a status report that describes progress toward achieving of project milestones.

The Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant, Section 117 of the Clean Water Act, also has a semi-annual progress reporting requirement. This report is used to track project progress and implementation. A final report at the conclusion of the grant is also required.

The Water Quality Improvement Act requires that the directors of the Departments of Environmental Quality

(DEQ) and Conservation and Recreation (DCR) report, by January 1 of each year, to the governor and the General Assembly the amounts and recipients of grants made from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund, and the specific and measurable pollution reduction achievements to state waters anticipated as a result of each grant award, together with the amounts of continued funding required for the coming fiscal year under all fully executed grant agreements. In addition, the Water Quality Improvement Act requires that DCR prepare an annual report to the governor and the General Assembly on whether cooperative NPS pollution programs, including nutrient reduction programs, developed pursuant to this section are being effectively implemented to meet the objectives of this article. Finally, DCR, in conjunction with other state agencies, shall evaluate and report on the impacts of NPS pollution on water quality and water quality improvement to the governor and the General Assembly. The evaluation shall, at a minimum, include considerations of water quality standards, fishing bans, shellfish contamination, aquatic life monitoring, sediment sampling, fish tissue sampling and human health standards. The report shall, at a minimum, include an assessment of the geographic regions where water quality is demonstrated to be impaired or degraded as the result of nonpoint source pollution and an evaluation of the basis or cause for

such impairment or degradation.

NPS pollution programs are also reported in the Semi-annual Section B Coastal Resources Management Program Report that is submitted to NOAA. Specific NPS program elements of this report include accomplishments related to stormwater, erosion and sediment control and the shoreline erosion advisory service programs.

Additionally there are well-developed tracking, monitoring and reporting activities specific to individual NPS program elements and agencies. For example, DOF has maintained a detailed logging inspection and best management practice (BMP) tracking data base since 1989. Other examples include the NPS Assessment Report, the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program, and the Virginia Water Quality Assessment 305 (b) Report. As a result of tributary strategy development, a protocol for tracking implementation of all BMPs has been designed and will be used to evaluate attainment of targeted priority pollutant reductions.

The long-term planning horizon for the NPS

Management Program is 15 years. However, implementation strategies set forth in this document are focused on the initial five years. Specific implementation schedules are presented in tabular format within each chapter of this document. It is intended that these tables be used as a guide for prioritizing and targeting agency resources and implementation activities. As indicated in federal guidance, a program update will be conducted every five years. It is anticipated that the Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee (NPSAC) will play an increasingly important role in program evaluation and guidance. Moreover, NPSAC will need to take an active role in helping to ensure that the program implementation schedule is met.